THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) A delegation of Punjab MLAs had called on Deputy Prime Minister. There was no mention by Deputy Prime Minister that a team from Government was to visit Punjab. However Deputy Prime Minister remarked that a team of MPs from the NDA, if they so desire, was free and within their right to visit any State including Punjab. Earlier, Prime Minister's Office received a request for a delegation of MLAs led by Chief Minister, Punjab to meet PM but PM could not meet them due to prior commitments.

(c) Does not arise.

Nexus between Al-Quaeda and diamond merchants

†2270. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a nexus between Al-Quaeda and the diamond merchants of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this matter so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, if not, by when it is proposed to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) There are no specific reports with the Government in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Demand for separating Hardwar from Uttaranchal

†2271. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many organisations and political parties have demanded for separating Hardwar from Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.